

## ABSOLUTE DENIAL BY BERNSTORFF

Gives His Word of Honor There  
Is No Truth in Reported  
Meyer-Gerhard Dupe.

### NEVER HEARD OF DR. MEYER

State Department Is Thoroughly  
Satisfied and Considers  
Incident Closed.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]  
WASHINGTON, June 18.—Count von Bernstorff, the German ambassador, today gave his word of honor to Secretary of State Lansing that the envoy he sent to Berlin, for whom the State Department obtained safe passage, was Dr. Meyer-Gerhard, an official of the German Colonial Office, who had been in this country on behalf of the German Red Cross.

The ambassador told the secretary that neither he nor any member of the embassy staff had ever heard of Dr. Alfred Meyer, said to be the head of a supply division of the German army. Charges to which publicity has been given accused the ambassador of duping this government into providing safe passage for Dr. Meyer, under the name of Dr. Meyer-Gerhard.

The ambassador reiterated his statement yesterday, that the publication of the charges would likely operate injuriously against his efforts to bring about an amicable settlement of the issues between the United States and Germany over the sinking of the Lusitania.

Secretary Lansing assured the ambassador that this government accepted without reservation his denial of the charges. The secretary said later that he was thoroughly satisfied with the ambassador's statement, and, on the facts as far as he knows them, he considers the incident closed.

### WILL SEEK FURTHER FACTS ON INCIDENT

The State Department, however, has not given up its efforts to obtain further facts on the incident. The matter of greatest interest to this government now in connection with the incident is to discover the identity of the person or persons responsible for this latest effort to create bitter feeling between the two governments.

The State Department is acquainted with the view of the German government that these charges, as well as others which have appeared recently, aimed at the German ambassador, had their origin in the activities of a detective agency employed by Germany's enemies.

The belief is that the State Department will take the matter up informally with the government referred to, and ask for a statement of the facts in the case. The ambassador today made no request along this line, leaving it to the State Department to decide of its own volition what ought to be done in the matter.

The ambassador, however, asked the Secretary of State today to use the influence of the department to prevent misrepresentation of the embassy and its staff. It is understood the department has not yet decided what it can do in that direction.

The ambassador told the secretary also that the story containing the charges was shown to him a week ago. Just as he was leaving Washington for New York, and he said it was not true. On his arrival in New York, he said, he sent his military attaché to find if the story was to be published. The attaché reported that he had been told that the charges had not been substantiated, and the story would not be published.

Five days later it was printed.

### IN SOUTH ON DAY HE WAS REPORTED IN NEW YORK

The attention of Ambassador Bernstorff was called today to the letter written by Dr. Meyer-Gerhard to Captain Ewald Becker, of the German Red Cross, dated Jacksonville, Fla., March 8. This letter was given out by Captain Becker to show that Meyer-Gerhard was in Jacksonville on the day Mrs. Selma Lewis says he was in New York, and signed a contract with her for \$50,000. The ambassador said that Dr. Meyer-Gerhard was in the South about that time, but he could not say that he was in Jacksonville on the day in question.

Secretary Lansing issued this statement this afternoon:

"The German ambassador called on me today and said that the stories published in the newspapers as to Meyer-Gerhard and Dr. Meyer were not true, and were embarrassing to him. The ambassador said that he had no knowledge of any Dr. Meyer, nor had any member of the embassy know any such person as the Dr. Meyer referred to."

"The ambassador made this statement on his word of honor, and said that the stories were a criticism of his own personal character. He said that Meyer-Gerhard had never entered into any contract in this country, nor had anything to do here except with the Red Cross."

"So far as anything that has been brought to his attention is concerned, the incident is regarded by the State Department as closed."

### DR. ANTON MEYER-GERHARD BEGINS CONFERENCES

BERLIN, June 18 (via London).—The effect of the arrival of Dr. Anton Meyer-Gerhard, who has come from the German embassy at Washington with messages bearing on the German-American situation, upon the preparatory work of Germany's answer to the American note, is not thus far perceptible.

Count Bernstorff's emissary began today the first of a series of important conferences with Foreign Office officials. He spent most of yesterday with the Secretary of State for the Colonies, Dr. Seif, following brief conversations with Gottlieb von Jagow.

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## Governor Expected to Grant Clemency

Bets at 3 to 1 in Atlanta That Action in Frank Case Will Be Favorable.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]  
ATLANTA, Ga., June 18.—Bets at 3 to 1 that Leo M. Frank would receive a commutation of sentence from death to life imprisonment were freely made on the streets of Atlanta today and around the City Hall. It seems to be the unanimous opinion that the Governor will grant clemency. Another evidence of this came tonight, when rumors all over town were to the effect that the sentence had already been commuted, and that Frank was on his way to Milledgeville, the State prison farm. These reports the Governor denied, asserting that he would not make a decision until late Monday afternoon or Tuesday morning. Since Frank is to hang on Tuesday, this looks very favorable for commutation. Frank himself wears an air of assurance. Friends of the doomed man, jail keepers and the special turnkey assigned to his cell, say that "Frank is more cheerful now than ever, and that he constantly assures visitors that he is confident of commutation."

Throughout most of Friday morning he received friends of long standing; during the early part of the afternoon he spent the time with his wife, who came for luncheon, which they ate alone. His mother also came in the afternoon.

### TO SUPPLY OWN NEEDS

English Paper Wants Profits of Munitions Kept at Home.

LONDON, June 18.—David Lloyd George, Minister of Munitions, is urged by the Post in an editorial to make every effort to place the munitions industry on a basis whereby England can supply all her own needs in war material.

"If the profits of our manufacturers are too high in some cases," says the Post, "that can be rectified; but, at the worst, it is not so grave an event as the sending of orders to neutral countries when by so doing we send money out of our own country and reap none of the benefits. Profits which English manufacturers and workers make will be spent among Englishmen, while profits Americans make are altogether lost to this country."

"We should encourage our manufacturers by offering them long contracts on reasonable terms. As to the length of the war, it is unsafe to estimate the end as less than two or three years from now."

### JURY TRIAL FOR THAW

Court of Appeals Upholds Order of Justice Hendrick.

ALBANY, N. Y., June 18.—The Court of Appeals today upheld the order of Supreme Court Justice Hendrick directing a jury trial to test the sanity of Harry K. Thaw.

The Court of Appeals was unanimous in its decision, which held that Justice Hendrick did not attempt to evade responsibility in directing a jury trial, but merely wished to obtain the advice of a jury.

The decision holds that Thaw has no mandatory right to a jury trial, but that it was in the discretion of the trial judge to decide whether such a request had been granted.

### REPLY TO FRYE NOTE READY

German Embassy at Washington May Handle Future Negotiations.

WASHINGTON, June 18.—The American reply to Germany's last note on the sinking of the sailing ship, William P. Frye, by the Prinz Eitel Friedrich, has been practically completed. It will not admit the German contention that any American ship with contraband may be destroyed, provided it is paid for.

Count Bernstorff conferred with Chandler Anderson, special counselor on the status of the case, at the State Department today, and sought information with the expectations that the German embassy might possibly handle the negotiations later. So far the negotiations have been conducted with Berlin.

### NOT TO CALL EXTRA SESSION

West Virginia Governor Sees No Reason for Legislature to Meet.

CHARLESTON, W. Va., June 18.—Governor Henry D. Hatfield does not consider the financial situation resulting from the United States Supreme Court decision on the Virginia-West Virginia debt litigation warrants him calling the Legislature together for the third time this year in special session.

"I can see no reason for an extra session of the Legislature, and none will be called, unless there are developments to make such a call necessary," said the Governor today.

Just how West Virginia is to meet its share of the debt has not been made public by those officers who have been considering proposed plans.

### GOVERNMENT BUYS STEAMER

Will Be Used in Off-Shore Hydrographic Work Along Coast.

WASHINGTON, June 18.—The steamer Isla has been purchased by the government for use of the Coast and Geodetic Survey in its off-shore hydrographic work along the Atlantic Coast. The vessel cost a little less than \$60,000, and will replace the steamer Endeavor.

The new vessel is a twin-screw steamer, of steel construction, 184 feet long.

## ALDERMEN REJECT HOSPITAL MEASURE

Refuse to Sanction Special Legislation for Limited Number of Objectors.

### TUCKER TO OPEN SANATORIUM

Repeats Willingness to Convey Property to Protestants at Its Actual Cost.

By a vote of 7 to 3, the Board of Aldermen last night refused to concur in the hospital ordinance passed by the Common Council, whereby a hospital or sanatorium could not be established within 300 feet of a church, school or hotel.

Ordway Tucker attempted to have the whole matter referred back to the Ordinance Committee, saying at the time that he would not vote for concurrence. John J. Mitchell agreed with Mr. Tucker, and hoped that some form of agreement between the contending parties might be reached.

Lawrence Paul expressed himself as opposed to recommitment, declaring that the ordinance, if passed, would not protect those residential districts in which hotels, churches and schools were lacking. He attempted to prove that the ordinance, supposedly designed to protect all residential districts, would apply only to Madison and Franklin Streets, where Dr. B. R. Tucker expects to open a sanatorium. Since the ordinance would affect only the latter property, Mr. Paul could not see his way clear to vote for concurrence.

### ONLY THREE ALDERMEN VOTE FOR ORDINANCE

W. W. Workman thought that the contending parties had had plenty of time in which to come to some form of agreement, and was against delay. Marx Gunst seconded the Tucker resolution. A. C. Nelson also spoke in favor of the Tucker resolution.

On concurrence the vote stood as follows:

Ayes—L. T. Christian, Marx Gunst and John J. Mitchell.

Noes—W. J. Gilman, H. W. Melton, A. C. Nelson, Lawrence Paul, Ordway Tucker, W. W. Workman and William H. Adams, president.

When the meeting had adjourned Dr. Tucker said that he proposed to proceed with the construction of his sanatorium. So far as the City Council is concerned the matter is ended, and those who object to the construction of the sanatorium can have recourse only to the courts.

On Mr. Tucker's motion for recommitment to the Ordinance Committee, the vote stood:

Ayes—Marx Gunst, John J. Mitchell, Ordway Tucker and William H. Adams.

Noes—L. T. Christian, W. J. Gilman, H. W. Melton, A. C. Nelson, Lawrence Paul and W. W. Workman.

Statements from Dr. Tucker, intended to show that he had attempted to do everything possible to satisfy the complainants against him, and had offered to sell out to them at cost price, were introduced.

### TUCKER STILL WILLING TO MAKE CONCESSIONS

"I have endeavored," he said, "on your suggestion, to make an adjustment, and offered to settle the matter on the very terms proposed by my opponents, though at a large sacrifice to myself. This involved their taking the property off my hands for what I paid for it, without reimbursement for any loss, damage or expense that I have sustained. When I finally agreed to this, the offer was promptly withdrawn by these gentlemen, although throughout all the weeks of this campaign they have tried to make you believe they were willing to reimburse me. In yielding then to their terms I did my part toward the group of gentlemen who oppose me and toward the Board of Aldermen. In evidence of my good faith on Tuesday night in accepting the offer of the proponents of the ordinance, in response to your manifest desire that we get together, I now repeat my willingness to convey the property to them at its actual cost to me and upon terms upon which it was conveyed to me. If this is acceptable to them, they must confirm it in writing forthwith." The statement said that the trouble was not of Dr. Tucker's seeking, and that he did not ask any special favors.

### BECKER'S CHANCES SLIM

Intervention by U. S. Supreme Court or by Governor Alone Can Save Him.

ALBANY, N. Y., June 18.—The Court of Appeals today denied the application of Charles Becker, for a re-argument on its decision affirming his sentence of death.

Becker, convicted of inspiring the murder of Herman Rosenthal, is in the Sing Sing deathhouse, sentenced to die during the week of July 12. Intervention by Governor Whitman, or the United States Supreme Court, alone can save him, according to legal authorities. Little hope is expressed that the Federal Court will act favorably, or that the Governor, who prosecuted the former police officer, will be inclined to grant him clemency.

There was no written opinion in the case handed down today. Becker's attorneys alleged in the application for re-argument that Justice Swayne, who presided at the second trial, instructed the jury, failed to present fully the defense's testimony.

### TILLMAN AT COLON

Will Leave Panama for San Francisco About June 22.

COLON, June 18.—Senator B. R. Tillman, of South Carolina, accompanied by his family, arrived here today from New York. All the party are well, although they had rough weather for two days on the way down. They will leave Panama for San Francisco about June 22.

## BUSINESS IS NOT UNDOULY HAMPERED

Treasurer Burke Categorically Denies Truth of Charge of Excessive Regulation.

### TALKS OF 'BUSINESS AND LAW'

Several Notable Addresses Made Before Virginia Bankers' Association at Old Point.

[Special From a Staff Correspondent.]  
OLD POINT COMFORT, Va., June 18.—Addressing himself to the charge that excessive regulation—particularly Federal regulation—is hampering business, John Burke, Treasurer of the United States, speaking to the Virginia bankers this morning, denied categorically the truth of this indictment.

It is suggested, he said, that the Sherman act is a blight on enterprise on account of an alleged blunder of the Supreme Court in giving it a strict construction without reference to the common law or the light of reason. The charge of excessive governmental interference is laid also, he said, against the protective tariff and such meritorious legislation as the pure food and Federal reserve acts.

"How soon we forget the great necessity there was for pure food laws," said Mr. Burke. "Have we forgotten the pure food legislation at the Madison Square Garden, New York, at which a sample of strawberry syrup was analyzed and found to contain enough coal tar dye to color a child's undershirt a vivid red, which was done and the undershirt hung in a booth at the exposition where all might see?"

### ACT IS EULOGIZED BY COUNTRY'S BANKERS

"The reserve bank act has been condemned as a wild, chimerical, damnable, wildest banking scheme, that was sure to bring inflation and disaster to the financial world, but at the recent Pan-American Financial Conference, which was attended by the biggest bankers in the country, this law was eulogized by the bankers as a law which had broken the shackles of the banking institutions, and not only enabled them to take care of the business of the United States, but enabled them through foreign branches to compete with the world for the commerce of the world. Instead of hampering business, this law not only helps business, but makes business and banking safe."

Mr. Burke spoke on the subject, "Business and the Law," making out a strong case for same governmental supervision of commerce and industry, in order that business may observe an appropriate restraint and a proper regard for the rights of competitors.

The address was the first on the program at the morning session, which convened shortly after 10:30 o'clock, and followed the business of nominating officers for the morning's session, which opened the second day's session of the twenty-second annual convention of the Virginia Bankers' Association.

### TIFFANY WILL BE ELECTED ASSOCIATION'S PRESIDENT

Nominations for the major offices followed without deviation the predictions that had been current since the convention opened. Thomas B. McAdams, a former president of the association, nominated W. McAdams, cashier of the First National Bank, Richmond, characterizing him as "the biggest man in the biggest bank in the biggest city of the Commonwealth." The nomination was warmly seconded by several members.

J. W. Miller, cashier of the People's Bank, Dulaski, nominated for the office of vice-president, E. B. Spencer, cashier of the National Exchange Bank, Roanoke. A. F. Ryland, assistant cashier of the First National Bank, Richmond, told the convention that Mr. Addison, who was detained in Richmond and could not attend the convention, had informed him before he left Richmond that he would prefer taking no part in the race this year.

Mr. McAdams explained to the body that it was his understanding that Mr. Addison took this position because he did not desire to run against Mr. Spencer, who was mentioned for the vice-presidency before he was, and who was perhaps better entitled to the honor this year. It was not, Mr. McAdams said, that Mr. Addison failed to appreciate the high honor of the office.

With the position of Mr. Addison thus made clear, Mr. Hunt was requested to withdraw his nomination. Mr. Hunt complied with this request, and joined in seconding the nomination of Mr. Spencer. Julien H. Hill, of Richmond, and Walker Scott, of Farmville, were nominated without opposition to succeed themselves as treasurer and secretary, respectively.

The following were nominated for election to the executive council: J. E. Neill, Group III, Berryville; T. E. King, Group IV, Marion; E. L. Robey, Group III, Herndon; C. T. Rusk, Group III, Alexandria; G. E. Vaughan, Group IV, Lynchburg; B. B. Jones, Group II, Petersburg; R. S. Marshall, Group IV, Portsmouth; J. T. Pritchard, Group IV, Danville; Carroll Pierce, Group III, Alexandria, and T. T. Campbell, Group I, Norfolk.

The constitution of the association requires the election annually of an executive council of ten members. All (Continued on Third Page.)

### BALTIMORE BY CHESAPEAKE BAY.

Overnight water route. Delightful sail. Only \$2.00 one way, \$4 round trip.

## Choice of Bankers for President



C. E. TIFFANY.

## "PRESSURE OR THREAT" RESENTED BY CHAZARO

President of Villa-Zapata Government Refers to Wilson's Recent Warning.

### HE CHARGES INCONSISTENCY

Willing to Make Peace with Carranza Faction, and Would Welcome Help of United States in Bringing End to Fratricidal Struggle.

WASHINGTON, June 18.—The United States government was informed today by Francisco Lagos Chazaro, president of the Villa-Zapata Convention government in Mexico City, that if President Wilson's recent warning to Mexican factions to compose their differences should signify "pressure or threat," the Conventionist government, "still harboring the conscience of its sacrifices, will maintain the dignity of the Mexican people."

The communication, transmitted by the Brazilian minister at Mexico City, states, however, that the convention continues to "conjecture that the general idea of the government of the United States is to help us in a friendly way to bring to an end our fratricidal struggle, which would be for the greatest good of the country."

### REFERS TO PRESIDENT'S INDIANAPOLIS SPEECH

After declaring a willingness to make peace with the Carranza faction, the note says in part:

"The Conventionist government does not see, does not wish to see, in the substance of the declaration made by President Wilson anything more than an advice, a friendly suggestion, to induce the Conventionist government to wipe out their difficulties and lead them into the path to the end pursued by the revolution. Coming to the declaration that if we Mexicans cannot settle our differences within a very short time, the government of the American Union will find itself constrained to decide as to what means it shall use to bring about a permanent peace, we declare that we do not understand how President Wilson previously declares in the same note that the United States does not desire or claim any right to settle the affairs of Mexico and more to the same effect. The same chief of the American nation made at Indianapolis, the following categorical declarations:

"I am proud to belong to a powerful nation, which says, that Mexico, which we could crush, will enjoy the same liberty in the management of its affairs as we enjoy. If I am strong, I should be ashamed to dictate to the weak in the measure of my strength. My pride consists in keeping my strength free and not in oppressing another people with it."

"If contrary to the interpretation, which in the most friendly sense the Conventionist government puts upon President Wilson's declarations, this closing part should signify a sympathy, generously demonstrated to the Mexican revolution, and should further signify pressure or threat, the Conventionist government, still harboring the conscience of its sacrifices, will maintain the dignity of the Mexican people. We continue, however, to conjecture that the general idea of the government of the United States is to help us in a friendly way to bring to an end our fratricidal struggle, which would be for the greatest good of the country. The government is ready to bring about by all means consistent with its dignity the fusion of all the contending groups, to initiate all the economic, political and social reforms aimed at by the revolution, and to establish a strong stable government in which all tendencies and legitimate (Continued on Second Page.)

## FIERCE FIGHTING ON SHORT FRONT IN ARRAS SECTOR

Reported as Desperate as Any Developed in Western Theater of War.

### EACH SIDE DWELLS ON LOSSES OF OTHER

British and French Try to Hold Trenches Gained Against German Counterattacks.

### BOTH CLAIM SMALL ADVANCES

New Battle May Mean Serious Attempt of Allies to Break Through.

### Russians Are Victims of Relentless Drive

Part of that great mass of Russians who in the winter campaign invaded Galicia and captured Przemyśl, and later worked their way to the southwest and battled with the Austrians through the Carpathian passes until they had reached almost to the plains of Hungary, again are back on Russian soil, according to the Austrians. They were victims of the relentless drive that has been in progress since the Germans joined their allies in the Galician campaign.

The town of Tarnograd, just inside Russian territory, to the north of Stenawa, and the heights of Kresow, to the northwest of Tarnograd, are occupied by the troops of the Teutonic allies, while to the southeast in that sector of Galicia between the lower San and the Vistula the Russian forces at several points have had to retire.

In the west seemingly a breathing spell has followed the heavy combats of preceding days, except in Alsace, where the French declare they are continuing to advance in the region of Metz and along the banks of the Moselle river. In this region Paris asserts that the French troops are holding under their fire the German line between Metz and Munster.

The Austrians have bombarded the Italian towns of Pesaro and Rimini and also a section of the coast railroad near Fano and Pesaro. In the Adriatic, Rome reports that three civilians were slightly injured at Rimini.

The British steamer Ailsa has been sent to the bottom by a German submarine.

LONDON, June 18.—Although disagreeing as to results, the German official statement, and the French and British communications indicate that the fighting in the Arras sector, and at the northern and southern parts of the short British front, is as desperate as any the western theater of war has developed. The alignment of hostilities is tiny as compared with the sweep of Galician front, where the Austro-Germans are still driving forward, but the last few days have brought much hand-to-hand fighting, the British and French striving to hold the trenches gained, and the Germans, with a preponderance of machine guns, as promptly initiating a counterattack.

Each side dwells on the losses of the other, and each emphasizes its gains, all of which have been costly, although comparatively small as measured in distance. It is too early to say whether this means a serious Franco-British attempt to break through, but it is patent that they are on the offensive.

In the east, the Austro-German forces are not only nearer Lemberg, Galicia, but claim to have driven the Russians further across the frontier of Poland in the vicinity of Tarnograd, as well as penetrating further into Bessarabia. The battle for Lemberg is now raging along the fortified Grodek line, where it is predicted the Russians will give a final stubborn battle to save the capture.

The British press, pending such time as the Russians stiffen their resistance, is finding solace in the reports of the colossal human sacrifice, which the Austro-German drive through Galicia has entailed. It is claimed that the Russians, even if forced to retreat, by clever management have drawn the Austro-German forces perilously far from their rail communications, meantime so seriously sapping their vitality with estimated losses of 10,000 men a day as to compromise materially the outcome of the western trip.

### FRENCH OFFENSIVE ASSUMES BIG PROPORTIONS

[Special Cable to The Times-Dispatch.]  
PARIS, June 18.—The French offensive north of Arras has assumed the proportions of a very great battle.

Though, by the capture of Neuville and St. Vaast the French troops have gained much ground, the Germans are still strongly fortified on the crest of the ridge. French progress toward Lens is also barred by the village of Souchez, which lies in the hollow between the plateaus of Vimy and Lorette, and forms the chief holding point in the German lines. Hill No. 119, part of the steep slopes of which the French have carried, forms the northern end of the Vimy plateau, and commands the village on the north.

The French are also held for a while by the last of the German defenses on the Lorette slopes, for here lies the ravine known as the Fond du bu

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